



2. COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND NEIGHBORHOOD VISION

Overview

The University Neighborhood Plan was developed with the participation of residents, businesses and property owners in the University Neighborhood. Throughout the planning process, community stakeholders participated in four Neighborhood meetings in which they were asked to voice their opinions and offer suggestions for the University Neighborhood Plan.

What Residents Like About Their University Neighborhood

At the first Neighborhood meeting, residents were asked to identify what they most like about their University Neighborhood. The most frequently cited positive features of the University Neighborhood included:

- A family-oriented, residential environment;
- The unique natural hillside environment;
- Convenient neighborhood schools and parks;
- Friendly neighbors;
- Active and engaged citizenship;
- Diverse neighborhood;
- Safe streets and low crime rates; and
- Great housing stock with mature trees

What Residents Would Like to Change in Their University Neighborhood

At the first two Neighborhood meetings, residents were also asked to identify what they would like to change in the University Neighborhood. The most common potentials identified for positive change included:

- Protecting single-family neighborhoods from new high-density housing developments that are out of character with the scale and lifestyle of the Neighborhood;
- Preserving existing wildlife areas from destructive activities such as dumping trash and the use of off-road vehicles;
- Upgrading existing commercial areas to provide services and amenities for University Neighborhood residents;





- Increasing code enforcement to improve overall Neighborhood quality and better the relationship between students and residents;
- Eliminating student, faculty and UCR staff parking within residential areas to preserve the character of the single family neighborhood east of Watkins Drive;
- Slowing traffic and improving the visual appearance of streetscapes along the major streets in the Neighborhood; and
- Creating better connections to the educational, cultural and open space resources of the UCR campus.

Vision for the Future of the University Neighborhood

At the second Neighborhood meeting, residents were asked to talk about important values that might become part of a Vision Statement for the University Neighborhood. Meeting participants offered the following ideas for the Neighborhood Vision.

- “Residents cherish our Neighborhood’s unique location”
- “The University Neighborhood is a diverse community that works hard to keep its high quality of life”
- “The University Neighborhood is a place where one can work, play, walk and learn”
- “The Neighborhood should appreciate UCR and UCR should appreciate the Neighborhood”
- “We cherish our unique location, environmentally, educationally and intellectually”
- “Our community is a livable Neighborhood”
- “The University Neighborhood is working together for the community and the environment”
- “The University Neighborhood is where family, friends and the preservation of our Neighborhood are the focus”





Following is a Vision for the future of the University Neighborhood that reflects the inputs of residents at the Neighborhood meetings held during the preparation of this plan:



The University Neighborhood is a diverse, actively engaged community with residents who live in quiet single-family residences and higher density housing serving both the Neighborhood and the University. Residents take pleasure in views of and access to the beautiful Box Springs Mountains and proximity to the vibrant educational and cultural resources of the University of California, Riverside. The University Neighborhood enjoys convenient and pleasant shopping in retail areas surrounding the campus, that are comfortable and attractive meeting places for the Neighborhood and UCR. The University Neighborhood appreciates its quality public facilities including schools, parks, a community/senior center, attractive streetscapes and well-preserved, natural open spaces. The University Neighborhood enjoys excellent pedestrian and bicycle access to UCR, Bus Rapid Transit access to Downtown and the Riverside Marketplace and access to the region via the freeways and Downtown Metrolink Station.

